

The history of the 30th Infantry Division Patch

Old Hickory



by Willi Weiss, Frank W. Towers / 10 / 2010

NAME: Thirtieth Infantry Division / 30th Division

NICKNAME: "Old Hickory"

PATCH HISTORY:

An oval monogram OH containing the Roman numeral XXX in the center all in blue on a scarlet field. The OH represents the Division's nickname, "Old Hickory" and the Roman numeral XXX, the Division's numerical designation. The "Old Hickory" Division shoulder patch was designed for 30th Division troops of WWI in honor of President Andrew Jackson, Tennessee statesman, who led troops from Tennessee and the Carolinas in the War of 1812.

BATTLE HONORS:

World War I [Regular Army]
Ypres-Lys
Somme offensive

World War II [Regular Army]
Normandy
Northern France
Rhineland
Ardennes-Alsace
Central Europe

ACTIVATED:

Oct 1917 [Regular Army]
1925 [National Guard]
Sept 16, 1940 [Regular Army]
Nov 26, 1945 [National Guard]

DEACTIVATED:

1919 [Regular Army]
1940 [National Guard]
Nov 25, 1945 [Regular Army]

HISTORY:

World War I

The division was formed from National Guard units from the four states named above in October 1917, at Camp Sevier, NC. After a brief training period in the US, the 30th went overseas for combined training with the British. In Aug 1918, elements took over the canal sector southwest of Ypres, Belgium, holding there until an Allied offensive opened up late that month for the entire Ypres-Lys sector. During the Somme offensive in Sept. and Oct. 1918, the division helped break the Hindenburg Line near Bellicourt and later participated in the battle of LaSelle River. The 30th's Field Artillery units fought separately, taking part in the St Mihiel and Meuse-Argonne offensives. The division took 3848 prisoners and suffered 8954 casualties.

Activated: October 1917 (National Guard Division from North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, and Tennessee).

Organization 117th, 118th, 119th, 120th Infantry Regiments
113th, 114th, 115th Artillery Battalions 113th, 114th, 115th Machine Gun Companies
105th Engineers Battalion

Major operations: Ypres-Lys, Somme offensive.

Casualties: Total-8,415. (KIA-1,237; WIA-7,178).

Commanders: Maj. Gen. J. F. Morrison (28 August 1917), Brig. Gen. William S. Scott (19 September 1917), Maj. Gen. C. P. Townsley (14 October 1917), Brig. Gen. Samson L. Faison (1 December 1917), Maj. Gen. C. P. Townsley (6 December 1917), Brig. Gen. Samson L. Faison (17 December 1917), Brig. Gen. L. D. Tyson (22 December 1917), Brig. Gen. G. G. Gatley (28 December 1917), Brig. Gen. Samson L. Faison (1 January 1918), Brig. Gen. L. D. Tyson (30 March 1918), Brig. Gen. Samson L. Faison (7 April 1918), Maj. Gen. G. W. Read (3 May 1918), Brig. Gen. R. H. Noble (12 June 1918), Maj. Gen. G. W. Read (14 June 1918), Maj. Gen. Samson L. Faison (15 June 1918), Maj. Gen. F. H. Lewis (18 July 1918), Brig. Gen. Samson L. Faison (23 December 1918).

Post-World War I to the 1930s

Following World War I, the 30th Division was briefly inactivated due to Army cutbacks. However, in 1921, the Army realized the amount of valuable soldiering skill that was being lost by removing these World War I veterans from military service. The Army therefore set the 30th Division to be an organized reserve formation.

Then, in 1925, the 30th division was again reorganized into the 30th National Guard Division, which consisted of units from North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, and Georgia.

The 30th Division changed very little from 1925 through the 1930s. But, in 1940 with war seeming imminent, the North Carolina National Guard (including the 30th Division) was mobilized for training in preparation for World War II.

World War II

Activated: 16 September 1940.

Overseas: 11 February 1944.

Campaigns: Normandy, Northern France, Rhineland, Ardennes-Alsace, Central Europe

Days of combat: 282.

Distinguished Unit Citations: 8.

Awards: MH-6 ; DSC-50 ; DSM-1 ; SS-1,773 ; LM-12; DFC-3 ; SM-30 ; BSM-6,616 ; AM-154.

Commanders: Maj. Gen. Henry D. Russell (16 September 1940-April 1942), Maj. Gen. William H. Simpson (May-July 1942), Maj. Gen. Leland S. Hobbs (9 September 1942-September 1945), Maj. Gen. Albert C. Cowper (September 1945 to inactivation.)

Returned to U.S.: 19 August 1945.

Inactivated: 25 November 1945. (See National Guard.)

Organization:

117th, 118th(detached Aug. 1942), 119th and 120th Infantry Regiments
113th, 119th, 197th and 230th Field Artillery Battalions
105th Engineer Combat Battalion

Combat Chronicle

The 30th Infantry Division arrived in England, 22 February 1944, and trained until June. It landed at Omaha Beach, Normandy, 11 June 1944, secured the Vire-et-Taute Canal, crossed the Vire River, 7 July, and, beginning on 25 July spearheaded the St. Lo breakthrough. The day after the Division relieved the 1st Infantry Division near Mortain on 6 August, the German drive to Avranches began. Fighting in place with all available personnel, the 30th frustrated enemy plans and broke the enemy spearhead (Operation Luttich) in a week of violent struggle, 7 to 12 August. The Division drove east through Belgium, crossing the Meuse River at Vise and Liege, 10 September. Elements entered the Netherlands on the 12th, and Maastricht fell the next day. Taking up positions along the Wurm River, the 30th launched its attack on the Siegfried Line, 2 October 1944, and succeeded in contacting the 1st Division, 16 October, and encircling Aachen.

After a rest period, the Division eliminated an enemy salient northeast of Aachen, 16 November, pushed to the Inde River at Altdorf, 28 November, then moved to rest areas. On 17 December the Division rushed south to the Malmedy-Stavelot area to help block the powerful enemy drive in the Battle of the Ardennes. It launched a counteroffensive on 13 January 1945 and reached a point 2 miles south of St. Vith, 26 January, before leaving the Battle of the Bulge and moving to an assembly area near Lierneux, 27 January, and to another near Aachen to prepare for the Roer offensive. The Roer River was crossed, 23 February 1945, near Julich.

The 30th moved back for training and rehabilitation, 6 March, and on 24 March made its assault crossing of the Rhine. It pursued the enemy across Germany, mopping up enemy pockets of resistance, took Hamelin, 7 April, Braunschweig on the 12th, and helped reduce Magdeburg on the 17th. The Russians were contacted at Grunewald on the Elbe River. After a short occupation period, the 30th began moving for home, arriving 19 August 1945.

Assignments in the ETO:

18 February 1944: XIX Corps, First Army.

15 July 1944: VII Corps.

28 July 1944: XIX Corps.

1 August 1944: XIX Corps, First Army, 12th Army Group.

4 August 1944: V Corps.

5 August 1944: VII Corps.

13 August 1944: XIX Corps.

26 August 1944: XV Corps, Third Army, 12th Army Group, but attached to First Army.

29 August 1944: XIX Corps, First Army, 12th Army Group.

22 October 1944: Ninth Army, 12th Army Group.

17 December 1944: Ninth Army, 12th Army Group, but attached to V Corps, First Army, 12th Army Group.

21 December 1944: XVIII (Abn) Corps, and attached, with the First Army, to the British 21st Army Group.

18 January 1945: XVIII (Abn) Corps, First Army, 12th Army Group.

3 February 1945: XIX Corps, Ninth Army, 12th Army Group.

6 March 1945: XVI Corps.

30 March 1945: XIX Corps.

8 May 1945: XIII Corps.

Origin of the 30th Division Shoulder Patch



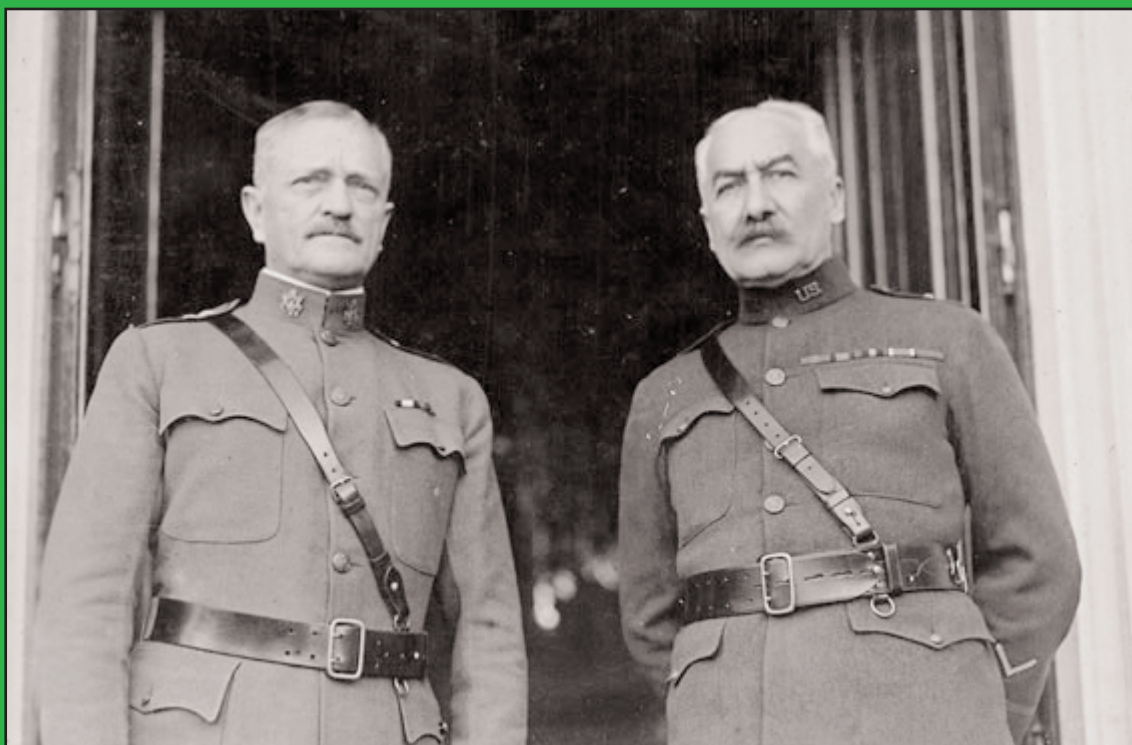
Charles E. McMullen served in Co I., 30th Infantry Division, Allied Expeditionary Forces, during World War I - KIA 1918

The divisional insignia of the 30th Division was adopted and used as early as June, 1918, in WWI.

When the G.H.Q. directed, in October 1917, that a distinctive divisional insignia be adopted and worn by all Officers and Men of the Division, this design was submitted to G.H.Q. and was approved by the Commander-in-Chief.

The design is a monogram in blue, the letter "O" surrounding the letter "H", with three "X's" inside the cross-bar of the letter "H", all of which is superimposed upon a maroon cloth background.

The insignia was personally designed by Major General George W. Read, at the time, Divisional Commander, who later commanded the II Army Corps, and is now commander of the American Embarkation Center at Le Mans, France. It was suggested to him that it be referred to, by the nickname of the Division, which is "*OLD HICKORY*".



Gen. John J. Pershing and Maj. Gen. George W. Read

Consequently, the “O” and the “H” in the monogram, represent “*OLD HICKORY*”, and the “XXX” represent the Divisional number “30”.

While the Division at that time was composed of men from Kentucky, Illinois, Indiana, Minnesota and the Dakotas, when first formed, soldiers from North and South Carolina and Tennessee comprised the vast majority of the personnel. The name “*OLD HICKORY*” was therefore selected at that time, as best exemplifying the sturdy fighting qualities of soldiers from these states last named.

General Orders No. 7, Headquarters 30th Division, announcing the selection of the name, read in part as follows:

“*OLD HICKORY*” was the affectionate nickname of Andrew Jackson, the famous American general of the war of 1812. He was born in 1767. While both North and South Carolina claim him as a native son, it is certain that he studied Law at Salisbury, N.C., and while yet under 20 years of age, he was admitted to the bar as Attorney and Counselor, and in 1798, was appointed Public Prosecutor in the region now forming the State of Tennessee. In 1796, he was elected to Congress, and in 1797 to the United States Senate, from which he resigned the following year. From 1798 to 1804 he was Judge of the Supreme Courts of Tennessee. He was again elected to the United States Senate from Tennessee in 1833. He was later elected as President of the United States for 8 consecutive years.

His life was a stormy one, but taken all-in-all, “*OLD HICKORY*” Jackson was one of the most commanding personalities in American history. It is his indomitable fighting qualities, as shown particularly at the battle of New Orleans on January 8th, 1815, that this Division will emulate. The military history of the ancestors of the soldiers of this Division gives every reason for the world to expect great things of their sons.

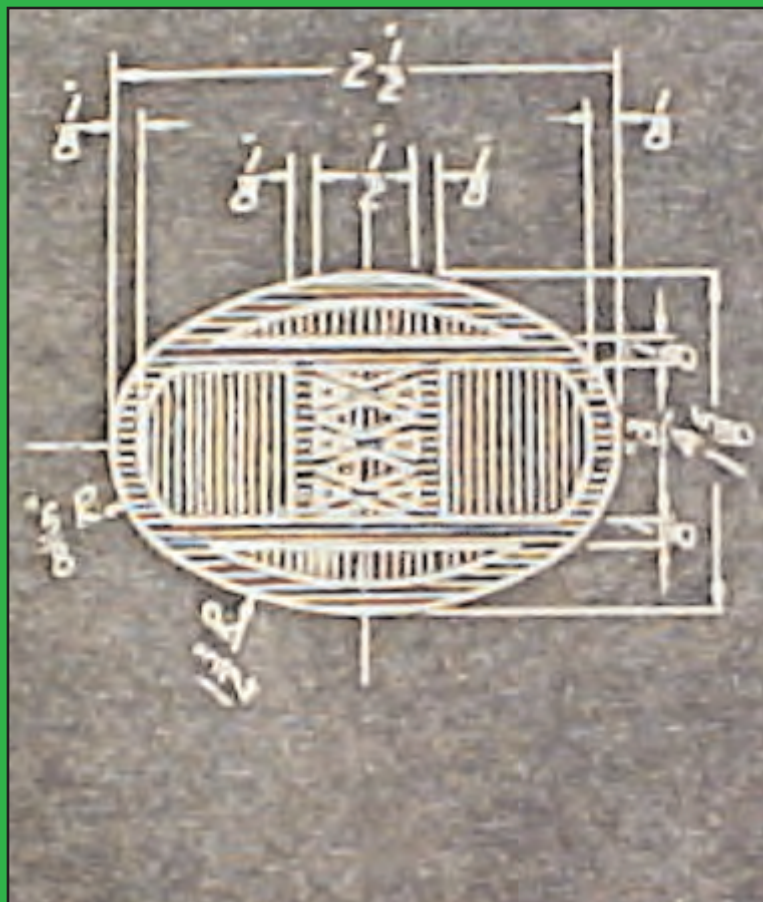
The 30th Division will accordingly be known hereafter as the

“*OLD HICKORY DIVISION*”

Shown below is a sample of the design of this insignia.

E. M. LEWIS
Major General
Commanding

Institute of Heraldry drawing



EARLY WAR EMBROIDERED ON WOOL (UNCUT)

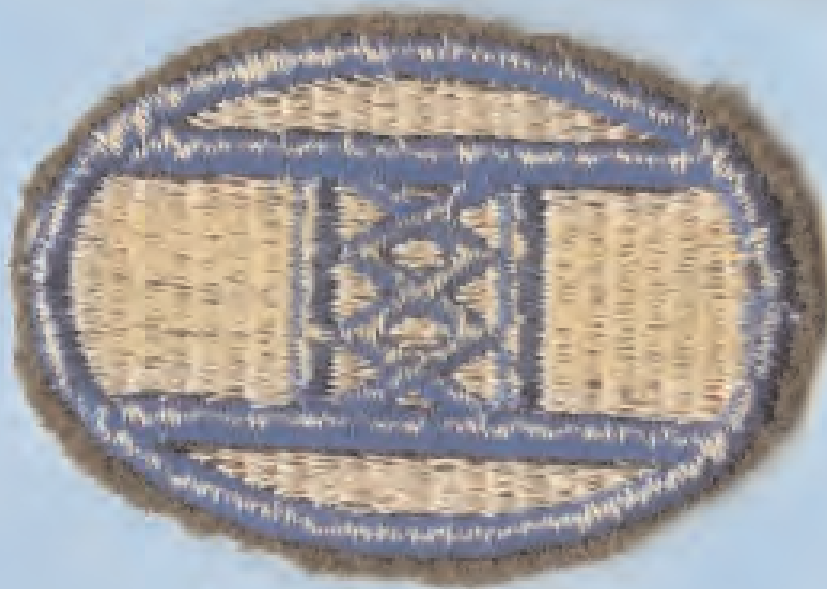
Front



EARLY WAR EMBROIDERED ON WOOL (CUT)

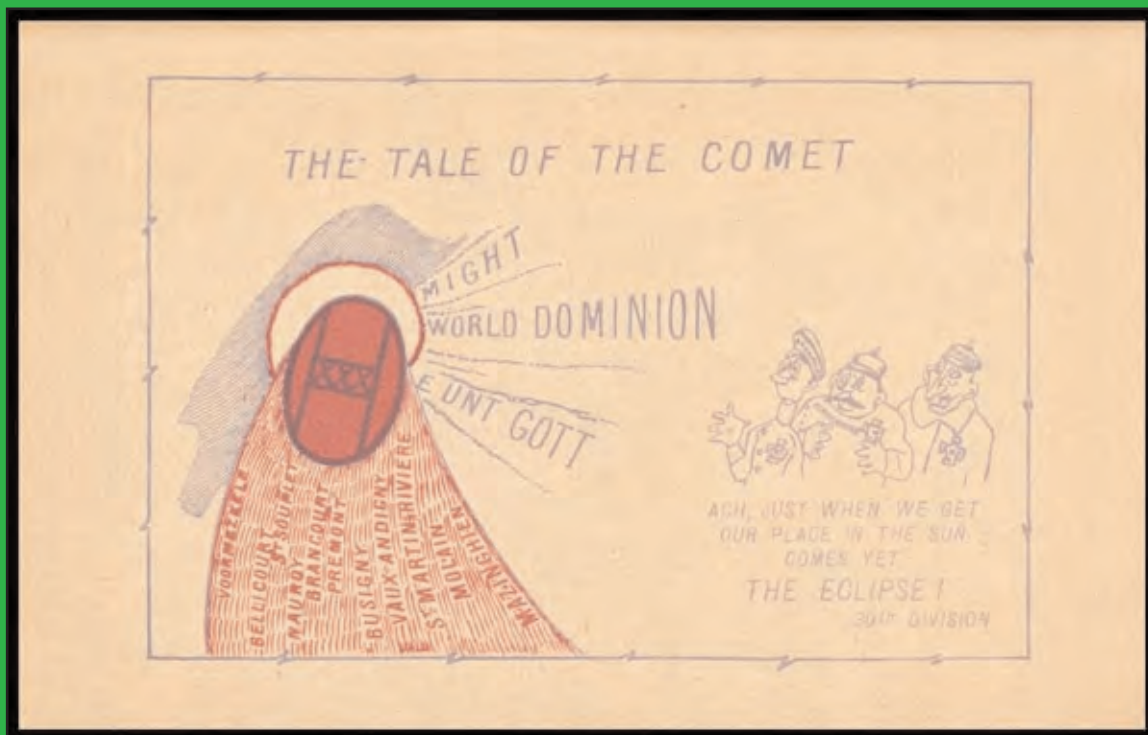
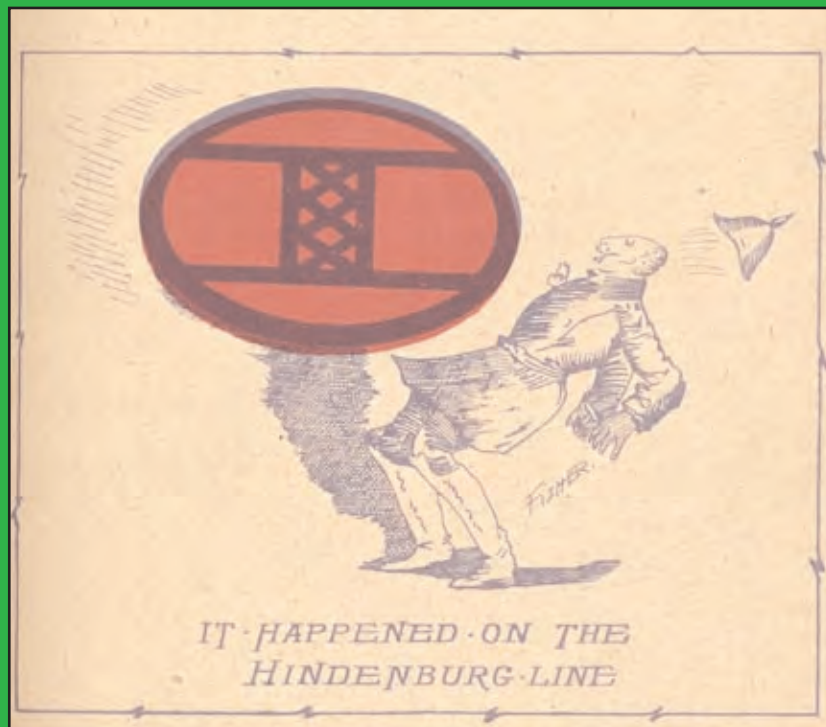
EARLY WAR EMBROIDERED ON WOOL (UNCUT)

Back



EARLY WAR EMBROIDERED ON WOOL (CUT)

Cartoons from the time of WW I



WWII VARIATIONS OF THE 30th INFANTRY DIVISION

Front



Back



WWII VARIATIONS OF THE 30th INFANTRY DIVISION

Front

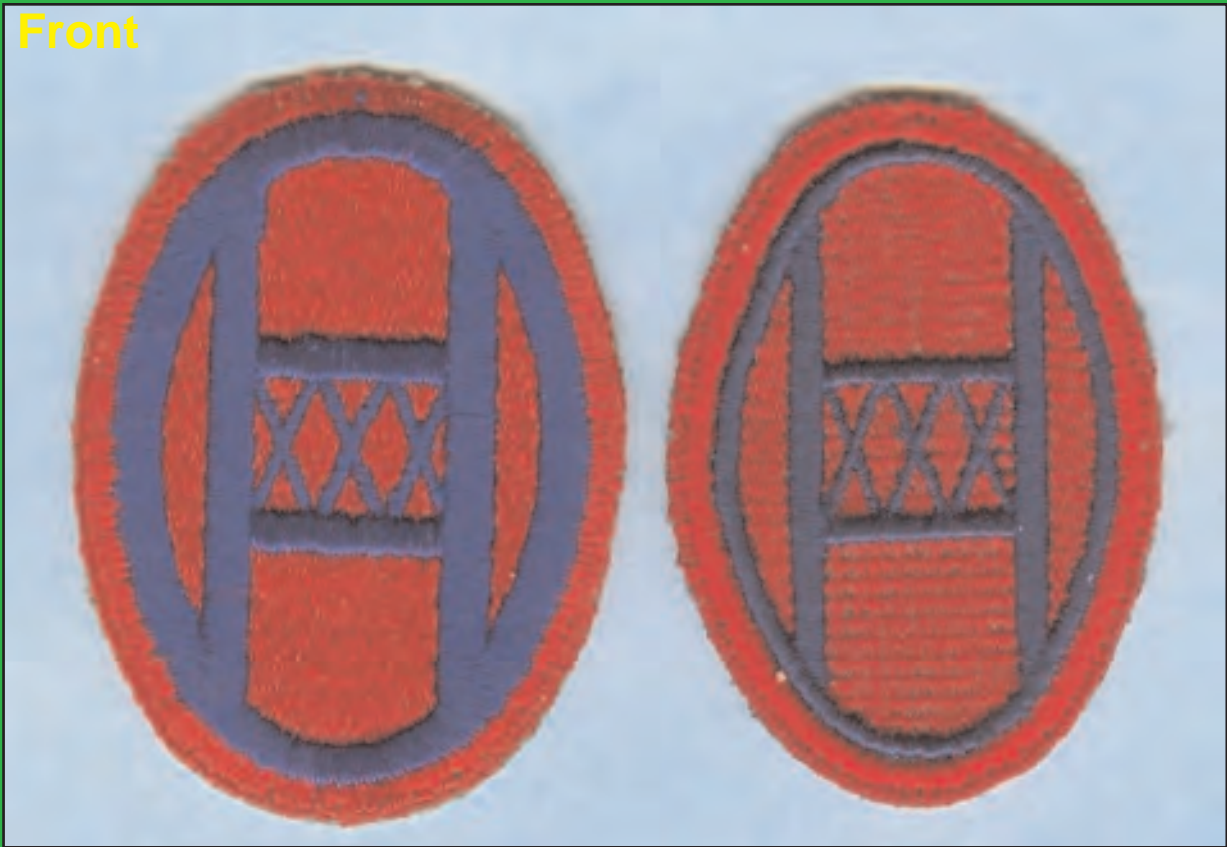


Back



WWII VARIATIONS OF THE 30th INFANTRY DIVISION

Front



Back

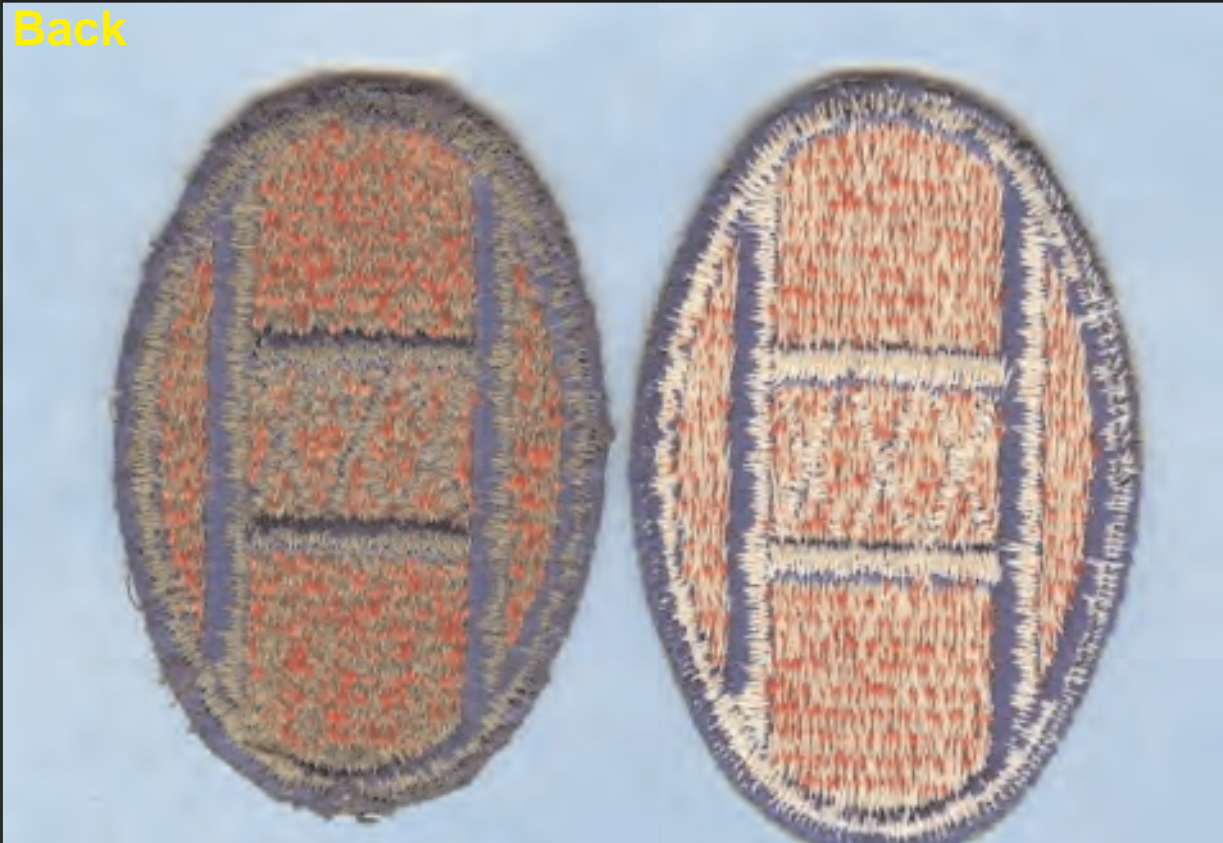


WWII VARIATIONS OF THE 30th INFANTRY DIVISION

Front



Back



30th ID patch w/ tab - 30th INF DIV



One piece, German made, w/ tab OLD HICKORY. Light blue embroidery, black back w/ paper, red wool, on template except for lettering and XXX

